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FTA News

FOOD, TOBACCO, AGRICULTURAL AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA—CIO

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CONVENTION LISTS GAINS, ELECTS HENDERSON, LANE

FROM WASHINGTON

LINEUP IN CONGRESS

By ELIZABETH SASULY

(concluded from Jan. 15 FTA News)

mittees handling bills of concern to labor. It is also important to remember that listing members and where they stand is not the last word. The Republicans have made a lot of threats and promises.

There have been many GOP promises—to abolish the polltax, stop lynchings, keep Bilbo out of the Senate, etc. Whatever the makeup of the particular committee handling any of these issues, it is now up to the Republicans to produce. It is also up to us and to the progressive fighters in both houses of Congress to see that they do so.

The leadership of both parties got off to a bad start by refusing to appoint Rep. Vito Marcantonio (D., ALP, N. Y.), the outstanding fighter for labor, to any committee, conveniently overlooking his 10 years of seniority. Each party hid behind the dodge that it was not up to it to assign a representative of the American Labor Party. The Democrats have apparently forgotten that Marcantonio was nominated on the Democratic as well as American Labor Party ticket.

Here is the way some of the House Committees we will be most concerned with stack up:

Education and Labor has as its chairman Fred A. Hartley (R., N. J.) who voted for the Case bill last year and opposed the minimum wage bill in committee. He is now reported to be considering a bill limiting Wage Hour suits, with a view to bringing it to his committee instead of to the Judiciary Committee when he was chairman, will continue his fight as ranking minority member. The House Labor committee does not present nearly as favorable a picture as its counterpart in the Senate. Of its 25 members, only a handful have fought anti-labor bills. Augustine B. Kelley (D., Pa.) and Adam Powell (D., ALP, N. Y.) should be in the lead among this group. They will need constant support and the rest of the committee must get pressure without any letup.

The House Administration Committee doesn't sound important, but should be watched carefully because it will consider anti-polltax legislation. If the 14 Republicans on this committee do not quickly report out an anti-polltax bill, it will be necessary to file a petition to discharge the committee in order to bring the bill on the floor, just as it was when the polltax Democrats were in control.

One of the clearest tipoffs on Republican plans is given by a new appointment to the unAmerican Committee, Rep John McDowell, (R., Pa.). This newly elected Representative, who was formerly in Congress, has run a vicious newspaper, attacking Jews and the foreign born in the Hitler manner. A committee interested in unAmerican activities would investigate him instead of accepting him.

The House Rules Committee, which must act to give every bill a place on the House calendar has eight Republicans and four Democrats. Rep. Adolph Sabath (D., Ill.), who was out-voted when he was chairman, will continue his fight as ranking minority member. It is most essential to file a discharge petition (signed by 218 members) to bring legislation we want to the floor of the House.

Harold Knutson (R., Mich.) is chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, which handles tax and social security legislation, and is the author of the latest soak-the-poor tax bill. There's not much to choose between Knutson and former chairman Doughton, (D., N. C.). The liberal Democrat minority—Reps. Eberharter (D., Pa.), Dingell (D. Mich.), Lynch (D., N. Y.) and Forand (D., R. I.) are still there.

The House Judiciary Committee, which will handle anti-lynch legislation and probably act on portal to portal bills, has reactionary Earl Michener (R., Mich.) as chairman, but retains most of its better members from last session—Kefauver (D., Tenn.), Lane (D., Mass.), Gorski (D. Ill.), Feighan (D., N. Y.), and Cellar (D., N. Y.).

A check of all 19 committees of the House, shows only one committee chairman who has voted right consistently, Richard Welch (R., Calif.), of the Public Lands Committee. Rep. Wolverton (R., N. J.) chairman of Interstate and Foreign Commerce, has a pretty good record. Rep. Edith Nourse Rogers (R., Mass.) chairman of the Veterans Committee, is an improvement, replacing Rankin, and has announced her support for reforms in veterans legislation.

POLITICAL FREEDOM

The following is the full text of the FTA-CIO convention resolution on Political Freedom. The resolution sets forth FTA policy on the rights of members and officials to belong to political parties of their own choosing. It condemns red baiting and other forms of witch-hunts as "part of the employers' plot to disrupt and divide the workers by setting worker against worker and by sowing confusion and prejudice in labor's ranks."

(The resolution was adopted after considerable debate with four votes opposed. See page 4 for story on debate.)

The unity of all working people is vital to the protection of the workers against the employers' attack and against those groups that are trying to lead the country toward fascism and eventual war.

This unity is only preserved through the freedom of all workers to organize for their own protection regardless of creed, color, national origin or political belief.

The practice of red baiting is part of the employers' plot to disrupt and divide the workers and to break up their unions by setting worker against worker and by sowing confusion and prejudice in labor's ranks.

Red baiting as an anti-unity weapon was used against all the accomplishments of Franklin D. Roosevelt and the New Deal, and was rejected by the American people in voting repeatedly to uphold FDR and the New Deal.

The constitution of the FTA-CIO clearly says that our purpose is to "form an organization which unites all workers in our industries on an industrial and democratic basis, regardless of age, sex, nationality, race, creed, color or political and religious beliefs."

Employers and their agents both inside and outside the labor movement have always used red-baiting as means of attacking the CIO and the labor movement generally, and the militant and progressive labor movement of which FTA-CIO is a part, in particular.

The progressive program of the CIO, to which FTA fully subscribes, does not permit any form of political witch hunts or similar persecution of union members or leaders. Such witch hunts serve only to delay and obstruct the carrying out of CIO's policies which are designed to serve the interests of the workers, not of the employers.

In order to carry out the program and policies of FTA and of the CIO, we reject all forms of redbaiting or similar attacks on individual officers and members of our union, and in the CIO, as a wedge for employer attacks on the wages and living standards of all workers.

We take this action in the full realization that this is a positive and necessary part of building the unity of all workers against exploitation.

NEW OFFICERS ELECTED

The following international officers were elected by the 6th FTA Convention:

Donald Henderson, President; Harold J. Lane, Secretary-Treasurer; John Tisa, Director of Organization; Luisa Moreno, Vice-President; Robert Lathan, Vice-President; Armando Ramirez, Vice-President.

Executive Board members: Lewis Bentzley, Louis Jedlicka, Moranda Smith, Armando Valdes, Rufus Bell, John Gallacher, Ed McCree, Holman Day, John Mack Dyson.

FTA news

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Harold J. Lane.....General Secetary-Treasurer

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Lewis Bentzley — Otis Nation (on leave) — Dixie Tiller
John Mack Dyson — Armando Ramirez — Armando Valdes
Louis F. Jedlicka — Robbie Mae Riddick — Owen H. Whitfield
Luisa Moreno

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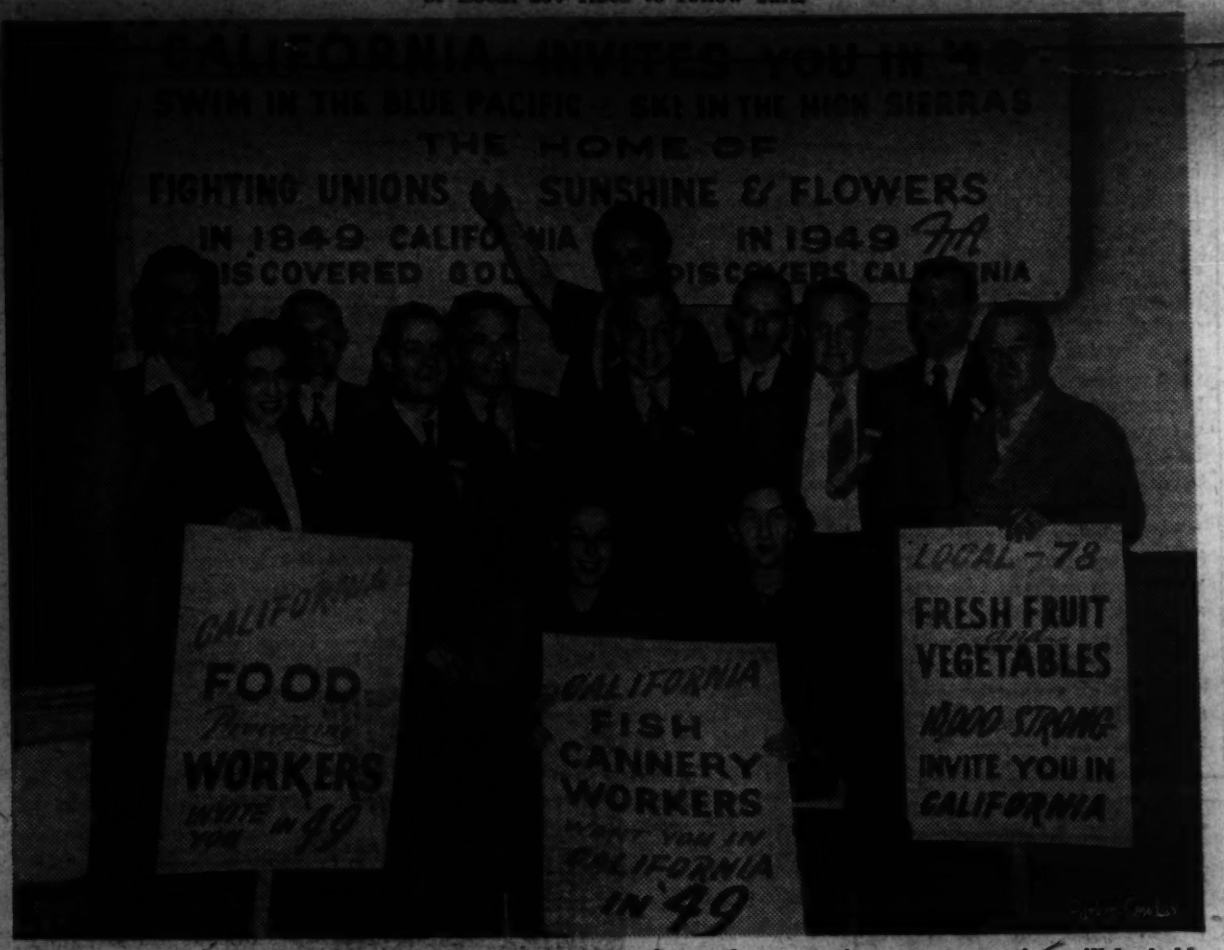
Strength and scope of the World Federation of Trade Unions, which unites more than 67,000,000 workers throughout the world, was brought to the delegates by this exhibit prepared for the Press and Publicity Dept. FTA is affiliated to WFTU through CIO.

Armando Ramirez (right) accepts congratulations from another Director, Armando Valdez of the Ohio-Michigan Region, on being elected one of three FTA International Vice-Presidents. Elmer Ringer of Local 297 rises to follow suit.



True to California tradition, the West Coast delegation makes sure the next convention will be held in their state. Unable to resist the pressure, the delegates unanimously voted (with cheers) for California in '49.

CONVENTION GUIDE

Every labor paper has the same chronic disease—lack of space. FTA's 6th national convention, reviewing the gains of the past two years and mapping new objectives for the next, crowded so much activity into five days that it cannot be covered adequately in one issue of FTA News or two.

However, here's a brief guide to what the convention did and where you will find stories on its work in this issue:

1. Worked out a new wage and contract policy, calling for "substantial increases" and other gains . . . story on this page.
2. Upheld political freedom, hit redbaiting as disruption . . . story on page 4, text of resolution on page 2.
3. Urged united labor action in face of tory drive page 4.
4. Mapped new organizing drives . . . page 4.
5. Called for action to defend civil, labor rights . . . page 8.
6. Heard Henderson, Lane reports . . . Page 5.
7. Had its picture taken . . . pages 1, 6 and 7.
8. Urged world unity in foreign affairs . . . page 8.

Elsewhere in this issue, Joe Califf's column, Elizabeth Sasuly on Washington, Connie Anderson on Education.

Next issue (Feb. 15) we hope to clean up anything that was omitted for lack of space in this one.

MAP WAGE DRIVES

Substantial wage increases in every contract were called for by the Wage and Contract Policy Committee in a report giving a detailed analysis of proposed wage and contract demands for FTA.

Showing that food and tobacco industries can well afford these increases with profits far above any previous levels, the committee recommended that specific dollars and cents demands be based on local and industry conditions.

The committee rejected the . . . "escalator clauses" based on the cost of living index. "Such clauses weaken the collective bargaining strength of the union, and tend to assume that wages generally meet the workers' needs, requiring adjustment only if prices go up," the committee said.

"The need for wage increases, which is acute throughout the country, is even more acute in the industries we represent.

"Our fight for minimum rates must take two forms: legislation to establish a 75c minimum for all; and increased efforts to establish even higher minimum rates in our contracts."

More than nine-tenths of FTA members exempted from year round overtime pay provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act have been able to win overtime through their collective bargaining strength. Our objective is to complete the job in addition to a legislative fight to remove the exemptions.

The committee called for equal pay for equal work based on the rate for the job and regardless of sex, race or any other consideration. It warned that the union must always insist on its right to bargain collectively on the proper rate for any job.

Complete elimination of all incentive and piece work systems was set as a long range objective. In the meantime, we must correct the abuses under these systems by bargaining on all phases of incentive systems and training our shop stewards to vigorously handle grievances must in every contract. Seniority clauses, leaves of absence for union duties, etc. should be included.

Under no circumstances, the committee warned, must questions of union security be permitted to be referred to arbitration by the employer. It warned against employer attempts to weaken the union by inserting "company security" clauses in the contract.

The committee recommended the inclusion of clauses providing guaranteed wages for seasonal and year round workers; welfare funds, group insurance and sick leave paid for by the employer; paid vacations for year round workers of two weeks for one year and proportionate vacation rights for seasonal workers; paid time for processing grievances; etc.

"The huge corporations of America have embarked on an all-out drive to break the unions, and particularly the CIO," the Wage and Contract Policy report said.

ADD NEW VICTORIES

Latest round of NLRB elections in the Tri-State and Kentucky leafhouse belts rolled up another series of victories for FTA, with more coming over the wires as FTA News goes to press. These are the scores:

Suhling Tobacco Co., Lynchberg, Va.; 52 for FTA to 14 for no union. Putney Tobacco Co., Farmville, Va.; 42 for FTA to 0 for no union. Dunnington Tobacco Co., Farmville, Va.; 74 for FTA to 19 for no union.

Results in Lexington, Ky., elections were: R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.; 232 for FTA to 68 for no union. American Suppliers Tobacco Co., 244 for FTA, 28 for AFL, and 66 for no union. P. Lorillard Tobacco Co., 42 for FTA, 17 for AFL, and two no union. J. C. Stone Tobacco Co., 67 for FTA, 28 for AFL, and 19 for no union.

A run-off election is due at the James I. Miller Tobacco Co., Lexington, Ky., following a 45 to 45 tie vote between FTA and no union, which left AFL trailing with seven votes.

Cumberland Tobacco Co., Nashville, Tenn., 39 for FTA to 14 for no union. Buckeye Cotton Oil Co., Selma, Ala., 63 for FTA to seven for no union.

URGE FARMER, LABOR UNITY

When Waldo McNutt, President of the Eastern Division of the National Farmers Union, was introduced to the Convention on Friday, FTA President Donald Henderson recalled that James Patton, president of the NFU was guest speaker at our union's first national convention 10 years ago—in Denver, Colorado.

Speaking briefly, McNutt described the role of the Farmers Union and the need for cooperation between organized labor and the farmers in finding the solution to their common problems and fighting their enemies.

A resolution adopted following his speech stated that:

"FTA-CIO as the only international union of workers processing food, tobacco, oils, cereals and allied farm products has a broader basis than any other international for the working out of close relations with farmers. It is therefore our obligation not only to ourselves but to the labor movement as a whole to promote such relations wherever we can."

Examples of such concrete working relations with farmers were given in the cooperation between tobacco farmers of the Farm Bureau Federation of North Carolina, the leafhouse workers in FTA.

Another example cited was the unity between the tomato growers the Farmers Union and Campbell Soup workers in Camden in the struggle which thwarted the company's efforts to cut wages and bust FTA last August.

Fred Wildfong, opposed to "overthrowing the government . . ."

Andy Overgaard, "redbaited ever since 1919 . . ."

Harry Brown, "to be called a red is a privilege . . ."

DELEGATES UPHOLD POLITICAL FREEDOM

(See Text of Resolution, Page 2)

Registering their hearty disapproval of red-baiting and political witch-hunts, the delegates to the 6th convention overwhelmingly passed a resolution on "Political Freedom" that condemned such practices as "part of the employers' plot to disrupt and divide the workers by breaking up their unions."

The debate, which lasted more that three hours, saw three delegates take the floor in opposition to the resolution and 17—all for whom there was time—supporting it.

President Henderson, who brought a smile by saying at the beginning of his remarks: "I have sure been red-baited enough", emphasized the need for unity around FTA and CIO program, and pointed out that redbaiting was the surest way the bosses knew of disrupting that unity.

"The central issue here is the right of political freedom, not that you have to agree with the political program of this, that or the other political party. In here we carry out our program, and we don't want any interference from anybody outside. We want our program carried out—and we don't ask their credentials."

Reminding the delegates that FTA has been built by people of all racial and national origins, "and yes, by Republicans and Democrats and Communists and Socialists," Secretary-Treasurer Lane said:

"It (redbaiting) is just another weapon in the bosses' hands for trying to confuse the workers. I am not so naive as to believe what is printed in the Hearst press when that press carried articles by Goering and Goebbels, the spokesmen of the Nazis our veterans went away and fought.

"All our energies, all our abilities must be dedicated to the program of this union, the strengthening of the ties between minority groups, among workers from all over the country—and nothing can be allowed to interfere with that."

The debate was started off by Harry Brown of Local 106, who was a member of the Resolutions Committee. In his speech, Brown said that he was a member of the Communist Party and added:

"To be a member of the Communist Party is a privilege, to be called a Red is also a privilege, because anyone of you that fights for the working class, when you are branded you earn that title and can be proud of it."

Andrew Overgaard, Mid-Atlantic Council, confessed that he had been "redbaited ever since working in the earliest steel campaign in Chicago" in 1919, and pleaded with the delegates not to "fall for this false issue of redbaiting, but judge every man and woman on the basis of performance of trade union duties."

First of the three delegates who spoke in opposition, Mildred Glenn, Local 58, cited the Readers Digest in saying:

"You have got to convince me that the Communist Party is a democratic party . . . In the things that have been printed, especially in the Readers Digest, if you have it, I believe there is something to it, and by gosh, I defy anybody to show me otherwise."

Another opponent, Fred Wildfong of Local 80, said he did not "believe in any minority group which believes in overthrowing the government we have in this country by force."

He urged a resolution "pledging allegiance to our form of government as expressed in the U. S. today," and further urged "that we should put on record that every Congressman should vote according to the majority opinion in his own constituency back home."

Wildfong was followed on the floor by Frank Green, co-Secretary of the Resolutions Committee, who pointed out that every delegate had pledged allegiance to the flag and to the U. S., and that the issue was unity versus disruption, not "whether there is democracy in the Communist Party or not."

Sybil Neff, Local 72, also cited Readers Digest in opposing the resolution, saying: "I would like you to get this Readers Digest and read it and study it, and start thinking it over. It is just a thought for the future. And I still say I can't support a resolution I know goes against national CIO policy."

(Several delegates who supported the resolution pointed out the anti-union character of Readers Digest, in the November, 1946 issue of which appeared a long article blasting alleged "communist-controlled" unions in CIO.)

Regional Director Armando Valdes, speaking after Delegate Neff, said that he had read the Digest article and: "It did not surprise me one bit that our union was one of those mentioned. I wasn't surprised because it means one thing, that we are doing a good job in organizing the unorganized."

Vice-President Ramirez emphasized that redbaiting is used to cover up racketeering and undemocratic one man rule in some unions, citing the AFL Longshoremen, with "King" Ryan in New York, and to stifle rank and file revolt. This has happened, he said, even to the New York Teamsters, whose members were redbaited when they tried to get decent conditions.

Impatience with the whole subject was voiced by Moranda Smith, from Local 22, who said: "We came here to find out how to get the 75 cent minimum wage bill passed. We came here to see how we can get better schools in Winston-Salem. We came here to get shoes for our children.

"We didn't come here to find out if a guy believes in the Communist Party. Anybody can believe in any party they want to believe in. But when you come to Winston-Salem and FTA, we want more money, and better clothes, and everything that is good and promised to us in the Constitution of the U. S. A."

Delegate Black, co-chairman of Local 22, put it this way: "I was never called a red until 1943, when 12,000 tobacco workers got darn tired of working for the bosses with the perspiration running down our pants legs, and we joined FTA.

"I want to say, call me a red! I know my political belief, and if it takes a red to raise the standard of living for the Negro workers and the white workers from 47 cents an hour to $1.25, I want to be a red."

Other delegates who spoke for the resolution included: Henry Gistover, Local 194; Max Sussman, 57; Larry Larsen, Delta Regional Director; Jack Montgomery, California; Paul Gardner, 194; Anthony Valentino, 80; Regional Director Wendell Phillips Jr., and Regional Director Lewis Bentzley.

"UNITE OR GO UNDER"—FTA DELEGATES URGE LABOR UNITY

"Unite or go under"—was the slogan adopted by the Convention for a program of united labor action.

"The major need facing the labor movement in the United States today is united labor action against the offensive of the employers and their agents in Congress and in the Federal Administration," the resolution said. "There is no choice in this issue. Labor must unite its forces against the employers or go under.

"Among the issues that call for united labor action are the wage demands of all workers, the need for extension and broadening of protective legislation and the fight against the crippling of existing labor and social laws and the imposition of fascist-like repressive laws against unions and minority groups.

"The same united campaign must be carried on against the violent attacks big business is now making not only on all labor's gains and rights but also on the living standards of all the common people, including the working farmers and the white collar and professional workers."

CIO President Philip Murray was praised for his initiative in calling for a unity conference by CIO, AFL and the Railroad Brotherhoods to work out a joint program of action on common problems.

"We note with satisfaction the positive response made by President A. H. Whitney of the Railway Brotherhood, and urge our brothers in the rank and file of the AFL to ensure the quick acceptance of President Murray's proposals by their leaders."

The delegates pledged full support of FTA-CIO "to united labor action through our locals, regions and councils as well as through the international union."

"We urge all FTA affiliates to work for such unity in Industrial Union Councils and other CIO bodies," the resolution declared.

Copies of the resolution were sent to AFL and Railway Brotherhood officials.

SUCCESS INSPIRES ORGANIZING PLANS

News)

gains over the past two years during which 185 new plants and 25,816 new workers came into the union, the Organizing Committee outlined a program for further organization and consolidation under the slogan "Unite and Organize."

Special attention was called to the work in the Southern drive, particularly among the leaf houses and in the Florida citrus industry. In the Tri-State Region, FTA organization has been increased 212% so far as a result of the leaf house drive.

Continued work among the Northern California cannery workers was urged with the objective of bringing them in by the next convention.

"Although it is the duty of all organized labor to organize," the committee declared, "the responsibility of greater organization rests heavier on the shoulders of FTA than any other section of organized labor. It is among the workers coming under the jurisdiction of FTA that the lowest wages and most horrible conditions are found. It is in the rural areas where the overwhelming majority of workers in FTA's jurisdiction live, where reactionary pro-fascist politicians hold sway. Their presence in Congress is a constant reminder of our need to organize."

In mapping organizing, the committee emphasized consolidation in those companies and industries where FTA has partial organization, such as Campbell Soup, Consolidated Cigar, Quaker Oats, etc.

Such a policy of chain organization calls for the formation of industry councils for organizational and economic action among FTA locals having contracts in plants of the same company or industry.

The committee also recommended that locals survey the unorganized plants in their area and form local organizing committees.

Use of the radio and press in organizing drives was strongly urged, as well as the preparation by the national office of organizing manuals and classes, a leaflet on the "high price of discrimination", and a series of leaflets on FTA—its history, how it functions and how dues are used, etc.

SUPPORT RURAL WORKERS

Full citizenship status, de- and extended coverage of the National Labor Relations Act, the Fair Labor Standards Act and the Social Security Act to agricultural workers is demanded in FTA's convention resolution on agricultural workers.

"Attempts are constantly being made by Congress . . to broaden the term 'agricultural worker' to include more and more workers in industrial food processing and manufacturing occupations, thus threatening all workers with the same discriminations practiced against agricultural workers," the resolution said.

"We pledge our full support to a campaign, through Congress and other appropriate agencies, to end discriminations that force agricultural workers to live at substandard levels which create a threat to the living standards of all workers."

HIT INJUNCTION RULE

Condemning the use of court injunctions as an illegal weapon used by employers in labor disputes, the convention went on record supporting the members of the AFL United Mine Workers in their fight against the injunction.

"In recent months the employers and their agents among the Federal Judges have openly violated the Norris-LaGuardia Act by securing anti-union injunctions in labor disputes," the resolution on anti-labor injunctions said.

"These injunctions which the CIO promptly condemned, threaten to revive the rule of the policeman's club and the company machine gun. They must be fought wherever they appear and at whatever union or individual they may be directed.

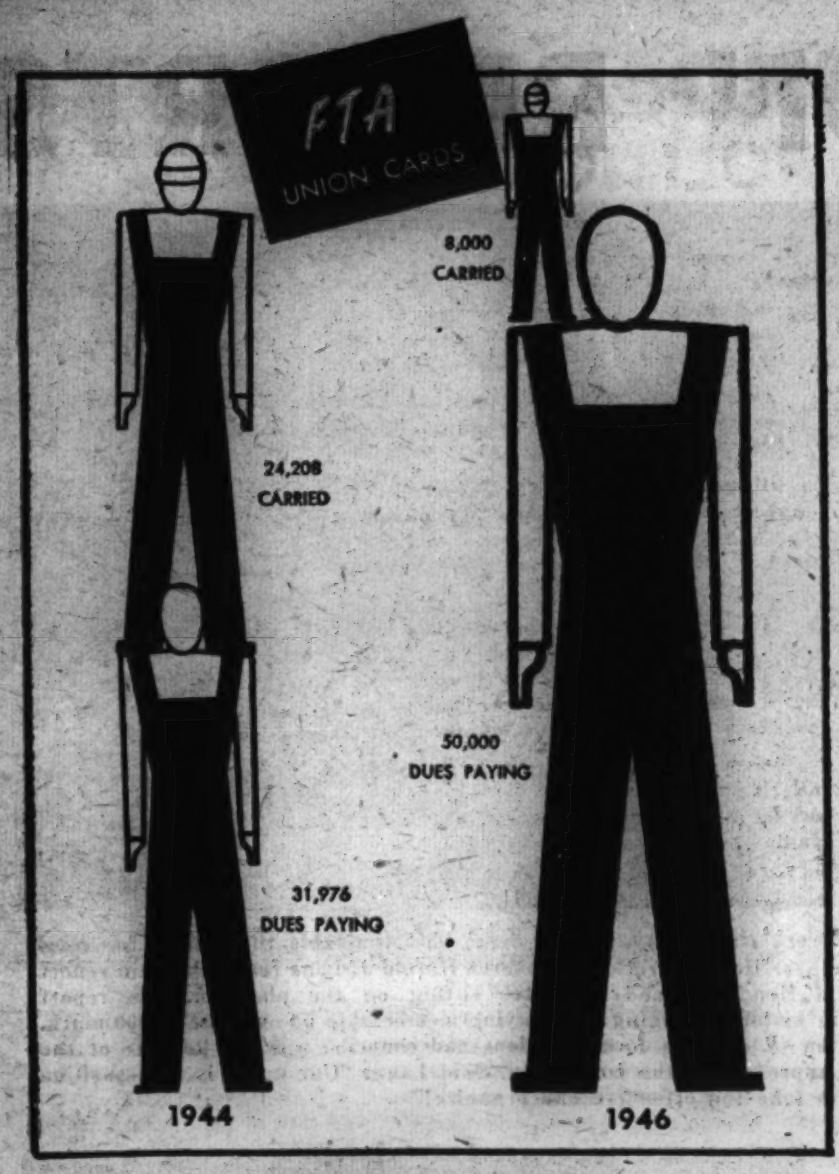
"This union has nothing but contempt for John L. Lewis as an individual who lacked the courage to stay with the CIO and who has since become a traitor to the labor movement, but in this fight we join the rest of the CIO in supporting the coal miners and in fighting the injunction directed against them."

Thank Negro Organizations

"The fight for the rights of the Negro people is part of the fight against oppression of all people," said a resolution pledging support to the National Negro Congress and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The resolution to these two major organizations of the Negro people expressed FTA's appreciation for their aid in local strike situations and in the southern organizing drive.

A similar resolution endorsing the Southern Conference for Human Welfare singled out this organization as one of the foremost in the battle to improve the welfare and security of the Southern people.



ORGANIZE THE UNORGANIZED

By Harold J. Lane

(The following are excerpts from Secretary-Treasurer Harold J. Lane's report to the 6th National Convention of FTA.)

Organizing the unorganized still remains the major task of FTA-CIO. With a sound financial structure and with consolidation well in hand, we are in a better position at this convention to devote our major attention—funds and forces—towards new organization work.

This is an unusual position to be in when you consider the work that has been done in the past two years, but can be explained by the correct action taken by the Executive Board and the local unions.

It is unusual in the sense that an organization of our size waged a terrific struggle on the west coast in order to help 60,000 cannery workers win their rights to a democratic union, and come into the ranks of FTA-CIO.

This struggle was fought against a powerful coalition of anti-labor forces, Teamsters Union, CP&G, the law-enforcement agencies, the NLRB, united into a powerful combination in an attempt to thwart the legitimate desire of the cannery workers to have their own union.

The fight of course goes on, and it will be necessary to carry certain minimum forces during the present time, later to be expanded, and we can anticipate the necessity for a large amount of funds to ultimately win the bargaining rights.

At the same time we were carrying on the California Drive, the CIO launched the Southern campaign, and it goes without question that FTA had to participate to the fullest extent of its ability in this drive. This meant additional funds and forces.

We could have taken the easy way and curtailed organizing work all over the country, to concentrate on the two jobs. But, the easy way is not always the correct way. We felt that the best way to meet our responsibilities to the membership of this organization was to conduct a referendum vote of our locals, on the question of the three dollar organizing assessment.

The assessment carried in the affirmative by an overwhelming vote.

I believe we must pay more attention to concentrated organizing drives and pay heed to chain-type organizing. But chain, I mean companies that have a large number of plants. We cannot stand by and see two or three of these plants in our union, some plants in other unions, and some remaining unorganized. We must lend our organizing efforts towards finishing some of the jobs we already have started, in terms of industries and terms of companies.

Our enemies would be happy to think that we can only fight a defensive battle. We cannot play into their hands. We must take the offensive and organize.

THE JOB AHEAD

By Donald Henderson

(The following are excerpts from President Henderson's opening speech to the 6th National Convention of FTA-CIO.)

We are meeting in our 6th National Convention, almost a 10th birthday of our union, a decade of struggle and building. This convention meets for the first time following the winning of a world struggle against fascism.

We are met in this convention in a situation where the struggle which faced our country and its institutions, which liberated the peoples and gave some hope for democracy in other lands, we are met in this convention in a period in which we have to face the bitter fact that reaction is again striving to secure control of government, of agencies of repression, striving to turn the clock backwards and cheat the peoples of the world out of the fruits of their victory.

In no country is the struggle more bitter or more obvious than in the United States of America. The workers and the common people of the United States have been faced with strike-breaking actions on the part of the very administration which we so steadfastly supported during the days of war. We are faced with the successful propaganda of big business and their allied reactionary groups to the point where the common people and the workers took a severe defeat in the November elections and are now faced with a reactionary Congress whose program is one of weakening, and if at all possible, smashing the labor movement.

Regardless of what one believes politically, there must be unity, there must be cooperation between the United States of America and the Soviet Union. These two ders above any other nation or any other tremendous powers stand head and shoulgroup of nations.

The labor movement today has accomplished something which gives hope. All of the organized workers throughout the world are united in one organization, in the World Federation of Trade Unions, with a progressive program. I think no other organization coniributed more to the establishment of that world-wide unity than did the National CIO and its President Philip Murray.

We have a right to be proud of our record of the last two years. But with that pride we must face the fact that with growth, maturity and power, have come greater responsibilities, greater problems, greater dangers.

We are no negligible force in the U. S. The enemies of labor are watching with growing concern the increased strength and size and successes of this union in every region of the land.

The employers in the most reactionary industries, the worst substandard industries, the most exploited industries, the industries which discriminate more than most others; these employers are waking up to this fact and other reactionaries are waking up to the fact that FTA is beginning to deliver a harder punch with its growth and its strength.

We are faced, along with the rest of the labor movement, with a central problem this convention has to find the answers to —the absolute need for substantial wage increases, particularly in our industry, which historically has always been substandard and which during the war as a result of a percent formula received less increases because wages were already at the bottom of the heap. It doesn't take much mathematics or arithmetic to figure that when you add 15 percent to a dollar an hour it is 15 cents, but when you add 15 percent to 40 cents an hour it is a lot less than 15 cents.

We have been engaged in the past two years in one of the most outstanding organizing programs of any union in the country.

FTA has, in cooperation with the Southern Organizing Drive, organized, petitioned for elections and won more elections than any other union in that drive, in spite of the severe limitations that we have on finances. Some 62 elections have been won: contracts in [redacted] tiated, in some cases they are in the process of negotiation.

We have a tremendous consolidation job to do. We are increasing our work in the South and increasing the tempo of organization. With the rest of the CIO we must go forward on this campaign.

We cannot afford to leave one stone unturned to secure the maximum of unity within our own ranks on the basis of our own program; we cannot afford to do less to maintain the unity of the CIO.

QUOTES

"I call your attention to one slogan on the walls of this hall, the remark of a great American, of a great man—Abraham Lincoln—who had the keenest appreciation of individual liberty, of democracy, and of the need for the solidarity of all workers. Lincoln said:

"The strongest bond of human sympathy outside of the family relation should be one uniting all working people of all nations, and tongues, and kindreds."

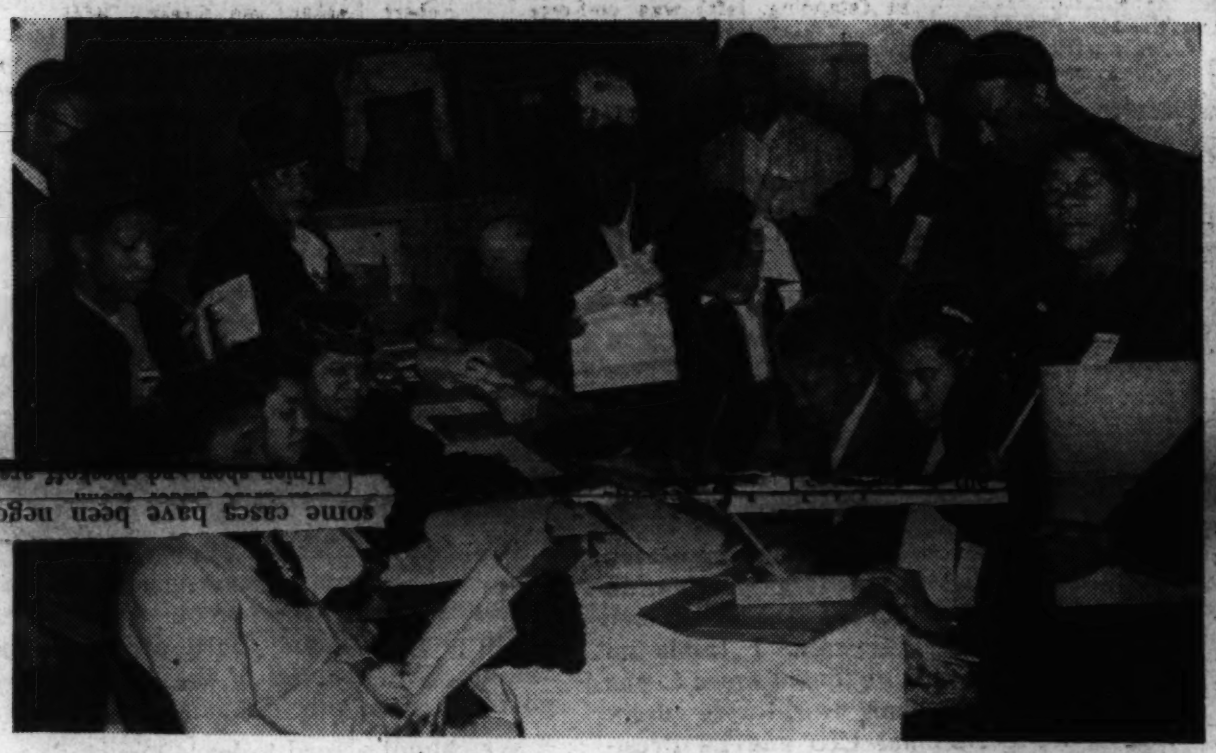
* * *

"The enemies of the labor movement have their eyes on this convention, more so than ever before, precisely because of our growth, precisely because of our growing influence, precisely because we have taken on big responsibilities, precisely because we have been successful in pushing the progressive labor movement into areas, into industries where they formerly ruled with an iron hand."

6th CONVENTION REPORTS

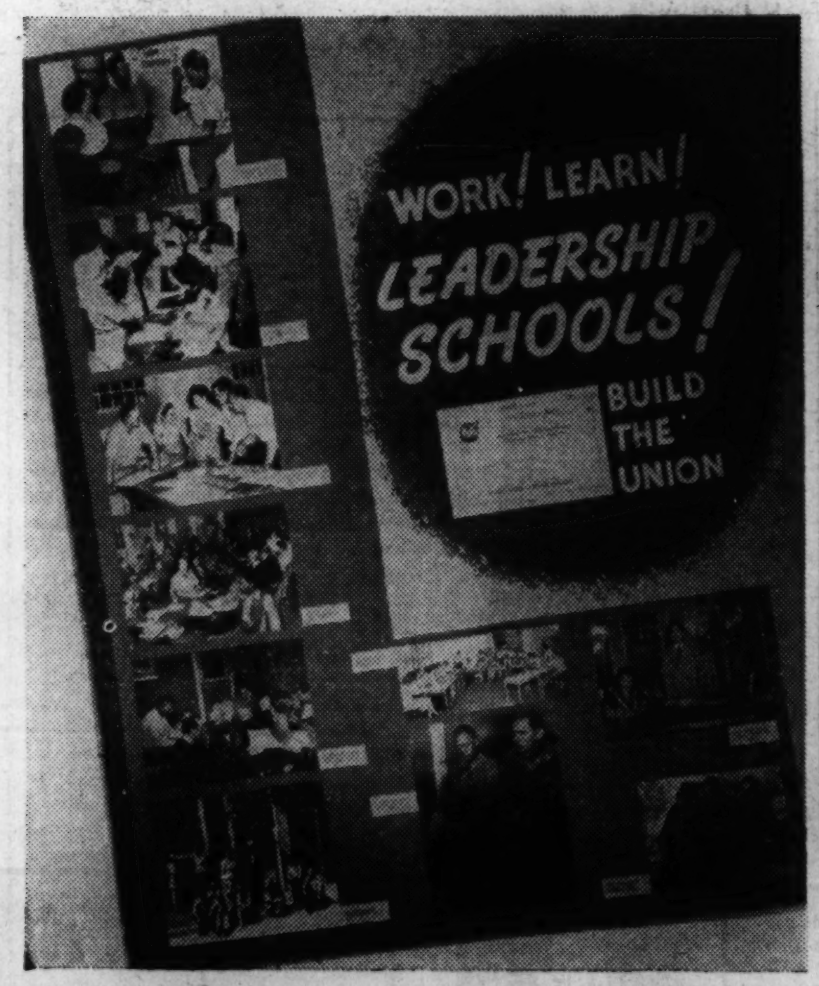
1. FTA's 6th national convention opened in Philadelphia, Pa., January 13 with CIO Regional Director George Craig (left) bringing greetings from CIO President Philip Murray and the local CIO. FTA President Henderson in center reads message from Murray, while Local 80 President Herbert Kling, official host to the convention, looks on.

2. The convention got down to work right away, facing a crowded timetable that called for completion of its work in five days. Here Secretary-Treasurer Harold J. Lane reads his main report to the convention, with President Henderson and delegates sitting on the platform. His report showed FTA's greatest growth in history, bringing dues paying membership up over the 50,000 mark. Further growth, plus consolidation of existing locals, regions and councils, was the keynote of the report, which was unanimously approved by the convention. Said Lane: "Our union is in a position to take the offensive and organize!"



5. Locals from all over the country sent full delegations to the first postwar convention. Local 10, from the North Carolina tobacco leafhouses, sent 14, including some visitors. For many it was their first meeting with representatives of all the international union.

6. One highlight of the convention was the presentation of Merit Award pins to outstanding leaders and rank-and filers who have contributed most to the growth of FTA. Lucy Aiello, president of Local 56, Trenton, N.J., was one of a number who received the award from Merit Award Committee Chairman Elmer Ringer, Toledo, O.



9. Exhibits showing the work of FTA departments were on hand for the delegates. Inset pictures show scenes of FTA Leadership Training Schools conducted by Education Director Connie Anderson.

10. Delegates from every part of the country met in Philadelphia to exchange news of union progress, notes on their wage and contract campaigns, and for just plain social reasons. Here are Vera Parton, 297, Toledo, O., Prudencio Mori, president, Local 7, Seattle; Gerald Fisher, 297; Gonzales, Local 7 and Ann Tinnon, secretary, Local 78, of Phoenix, Arizona. Outstanding social event of the convention was the banquet Thursday evening, where original union songs were sung by Locals 22 and 56. Max Sussman, Richmond, Va., Business Agent, me'd and Frank Collillo of Local 80 wowed 'em with his crooning. People's Songs artist Pete Seegar and his guitar drew rounds of applause.

GROWTH, SETS NEW GOALS

3. Robert Lathan, who was elected one of three International Vice-Presidents later in the convention, acted as co-Chairman of the Resolutions Committee. Vice-President Lathan comes from Winston-Salem, where he is a leader in the tobacco drive. On his right in background is the Rev. O'Neal, who opened the Convention with prayer.

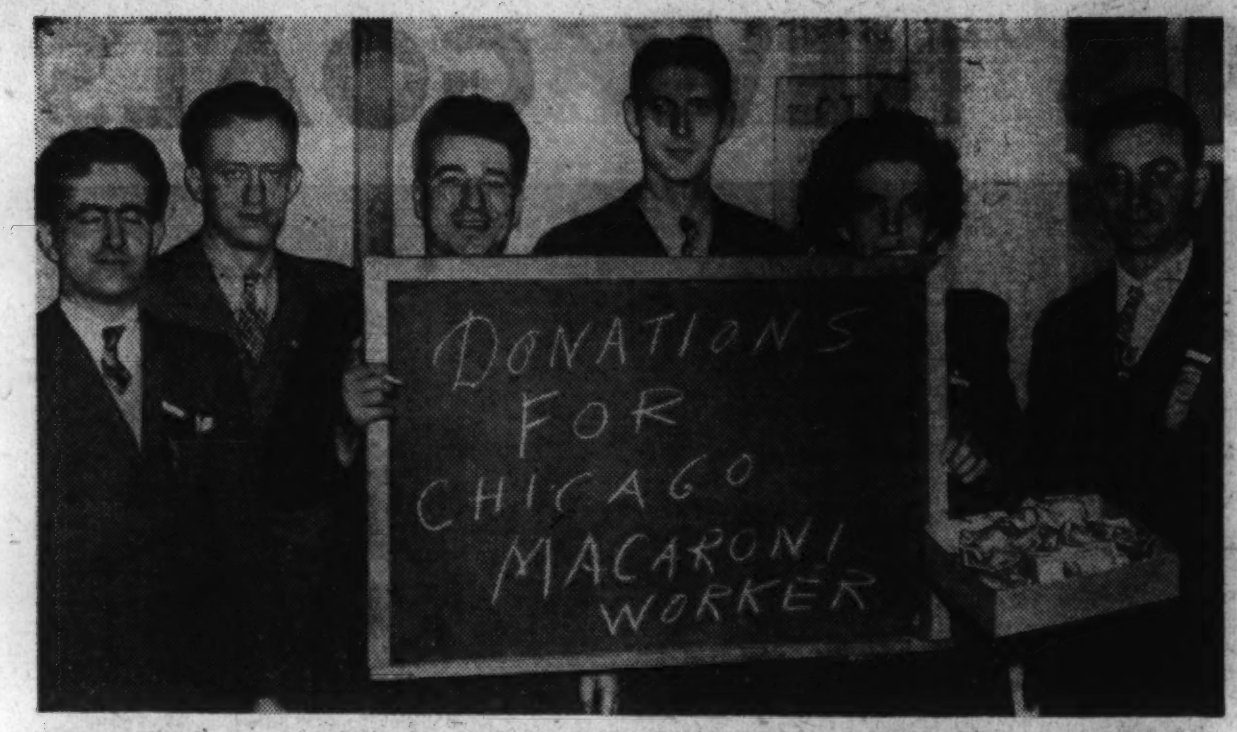
4. Much of the work of the convention was done in committees, which prepared reports and policy declarations for the delegates to pass on in the full meeting. The Resolutions Committee was one of the busiest. Frank Green (standing, left) was co-Secretary, Robert Lathan (on Green's left) co-Chairman with Luisa Moreno (seated beside Lathan and John Gallacher (on Moreno's left), co-Secretary and President of Local 194.

7. Dr. Max Yergan, head of the National Negro Congress, got a rising ovation for his speech to the convention, where he said: "Labor must always fight and fight unitedly, Negro and white. Let us remove all that divides us and join humanity on the march." Following his speech, the delegates rose and sang on initiative of Moranda Smith of Local 22. Walter White, head of the NAACP, was unable to accept FTA's invitation to speak, sent greetings and regrets that previous engagements kept him away.

8. Problems of legislation and political action received a lot of attention from the convention, with the aim of blocking the tory drive in Congress against labor and rebuilding for progressive victories in the future. John Gallacher, 194, Chicago, Theodosia Simpson, 22, Winston-Salem, PAC Director Elizabeth Sasuly, Christobel Bridgers, 10, North Carolina and Bob Wooley, 80, Camden, discuss a point in front of the PAC exhibit.

11. Discrimination against Negro and Filipino delegates by the Ben Franklin Hotel in Philadelphia angered the convention, sending a picketline in front of the hotel when members were refused service. Pennsylvania's Governor also got a hot wire from the delegates, demanding that he enforce the state anti-discrimination law. Case is now being "investigated" by authorities, will be pushed by FTA International Office. Legal action will also be undertaken at convention's direction.

12. The literature table, run by Marvel Ball (right) of the Education Department, was usually pretty busy while the convention was not in actual session. Fred Wildfong and Emma Lorenz, Local 30, look over the assortment with Mildred Glenn, Local 58 and Christobal Bridgers of Local 10.



Indiana-Illinois delegates Mike Jurcenko, Local 194; Regional Director Jessica Rhine; Organizers Ken Hirschy, Emil Dean and Jim Barnett, and Local 194 President John Gallacher take up a collection for the determined Chicago Macaroni strikers who are striking against 45c an hour wages and murderous, working conditions. Delegates gave generously, pledged their support.

PHILLY AND CAMDEN FILE PORTAL SUITS

Portal to portal pay suits totalling some $2,325,000 were filed against three Pennsylvania tobacco firms on January 9 for back pay to 1938. The suits were started in the U. S. District Court in Philadelphia by FTA attorney Saul Waldbaum under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

At the same time, Local 80 announced that it was suing the Campbell Soup Co. in Camden, N. J., for $46,000,000, and the Siegel Cigar Co. for $230,000 in the U. S. District Court in Camden. Abraham Greenberg is acting as New Jersey counsel for the union.

One suit for $1,500,000 was started against the American Tobacco Co. in behalf of 2,150 workers [illegible] brought by Walter Sammler, Local 186 president and Reuel Stanfield, Local 15 president.

Another suit in behalf of 900 Lancaster and Camden workers was brought against the Consolidated Cigar Corp. for $505,000. This was filed in the name of Benjamin Butler, Local 80 chief shop steward and Miriam Cliff, Local 638 president.

The S. Frieder and Sons Cigar Co. was sued for $320,000 in behalf of some 750 workers at the Philadelphia and Wilkes-Barre plants, while the Siegal and Sons plant was sued in behalf of 300 workers for $230,000.

Each of the suits seeks back pay to 1938 for 15 to 25 minutes a day at time and a half pay. The union claims that the companies violated the Wage and Hour Law by requiring the workers to clean out their machines each day on their own time without being paid for it. In addition to overtime pay, the suits claim equal amounts for damages and lawyers' fees.

While the workers have no exact records of the money due them, the law requires the company to keep records of this information and the lawyer is planning to get these statements from the companies involved.

Name Your Poison

"PORTAL-TO-PORTAL pay" is another naughty name that shocks some AFL leaders and gives newspaper publishers an ink-hemorrhage.

Members of Congress get 20 cents a mile, in addition to salary, while traveling all over the country to and from work.

Corporation executives draw their salaries even while on the golf links or in Florida.

Coupon-clippers get paid, not only while going to and from work, but even while refraining from it altogether.

But then, none of these folks call theirs "portal-to-portal pay."

Compliments

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Elberta Packing Company

ELBERTA, MICHIGAN

Local 207 Raffle Brings Joy to All

By Alice Horan, Reporter

Local 207's raffle, held several weeks ago at the Hills Bros. plant in Brooklyn, N.Y., netted the Local a nice sum and also made the prize winners happy.

First prize, a "basket of joy," went to Pasquale Nespole. It contained a dozen bottles of assorted scotch, whiskey and wine. Second prize, a basket of fruit, went to Joseph Borgia. An 18-pound ham was won by Betty Del Fino.

Tillie Huelberg was so happy she won a bottle of wine that she opened it right there and shared it with everyone. Umberto Jinestra won a bag of vegetables.

The money raised went to pay up per capita to the National Office.

New Locals Chartered

Newest locals to be chartered by FTA are Local 112, covering central Alabama, and Local 121 in Savannah, Ga.

The chartering of Local 112 followed a 63 to seven NLRB election victory at the Buckeye Cotton Oil plant in Selma.

Local 121 in Savannah, Ga., recently concluded contract negotiations at the Southern Cotton Oil Co. Where they won wage increases, vacations, check-off and other gains.

Officers of the Georgia Local are: Moses Houston, president; Sam Colman, secretary-treasurer; Sam Watson, Sol Buxton and Arrie Buxton, committeemen.

Much of the credit for a good job of organizing the Selma plant of Buckeye goes to two Local 112 members Henry Whetstone and George Robinson, according to International Organizer Tad Vincent.

Both Brothers Whetstone and Robinson, who work at the Montgomery plant of Buckeye, traveled to Selman every weekend to organize the Buckeye workers in that town. Their constant plugging at the job developed an inside committee which finally brought the workers into FTA.

Officers of Local 112 are: Andrew Thomas, president; Tommie Jackson, vice-president; Essie Pettiway, secretary; and General Davis, treasurer. Ned Toles is Local Organizer.

Extra copies of this issue of FTA News as well as the pre-convention issue of January 15, can be ordered from the Press and Publicity Department.

UNITY—KEY TO PEACE

"The key to world peace and to domestic progress is a foreign policy based on sound, constructive relations among all nations and particularly among the Big Three, of which the United States and the Soviet Union are the two strongest world powers." said the resolution on world policy.

President Truman and his advisers and Congressional leaders of both parties have abandoned both the domestic and the world program of Franklin D. Roosevelt. They adopted in its place the program of the most reactionary Republican forces in the nation, and have turned over the conduct of both domestic and world affairs to the representatives of big business and monopoly.

This is the reason why the Democrats were defeated in the 1946 elections. Any scramble for leadership in reaction must always be won by the Republicans, who remain the first choice of big business for such responsibility.

"In order to end the drift toward war, and in order to return to the program of world unity and progress at home, we reaffirm our fight for the policies laid down by Franklin D. Roosevelt and applied by him to both domestic and world issues.

"We urge President Truman and his Administration to abandon the anti-unity policies now being carried out by Vandenberg, Dulles and Austin and to return to those laid down by his predecessor.

"The 80th Congress, which the Republicans control now in fact as well as in practice, must be compelled by the American people to reverse the policies of Soviet-baiting and of opposition to democratic and progressive governments abroad, and must cease the support of reactionary and fascist regimes in Greece, Spain, China, Turkey and others and must withdraw all support from the enemies of anti-fascist unity in other countries.

"We note the appointment of an Army officer, Gen. George C. Marshall, as Secretary of State with the earnest hope that the foreign policy of the United States will be dictated by the need for peace rather than by considerations of offensive military strategy, and we urge General Marshall to remember at all times that a policy of peace and disarmament is desired by the American people.

"We further remind the new Secretary of State, the President and the Republican controlled Congress that the people are unalterable opposed to any form of universal military training or conscription. Republican Congressmen campaigned openly on the basis of opposition to the draft, and must not be allowed to repudiate these promises.

"We urge such a policy in the best interests of workers in this country and of our fellow workers abroad, to whom we are bound in fraternal ties by membership in the World Federation of Trade Unions."

FILIPINO CITIZENSHIP

Some of the difficulties of the Filipino people in becoming citizens of the United States will be ironed out as the result of Convention action in setting up a committee which has already contacted the Federal authorities.

For years Filipino people had been denied the right to become citizens and FTA played a leading role in passage of the law which corrected this unjust situation. Thousands of Filipino people are members of FTA Local 7 in Seattle, Washington, which has contracts with the Alaska canned salmon industry.

Recognizing that "despite the passage of the Filipino naturalization law, it is still very difficult for many Filipino workers to obtain citizenship, due to the migratory nature of their work and obstacles which are being placed in their way by local offices of the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization," the Convention pledged full support behind the Filipino people and established a committee to take up the issues with the top naturalization people.

In order to become a citizen, the applicant must produce two people who have known him for five years to vouch for his character. Since Filipino people have been denied stable employment in industry, they wander most of the year finding work in the agricultural fields. Discriminated against at every turn, they seldom become acquainted with citizens, and their few citizen friends may be hundreds or thousands of miles from where they are applying for citizenship.

In an interview with Allan C. Devaney, Chief Examiner of review cases of the Naturalization service, the committee learned that depositions may be taken where the citizens live who are backing the Filipino's application—and this will smooth out one angle of the knotty situation, making long and expensive trips unnecessary. Mr. Devaney also expressed willingness to help untangle cases which become tied up in local offices, thus assuring Local 7 of full assistance in working out the citizen problems of the membership and their friends under the terms of the Naturalization law. The five-year rule is written into Federal law, according to Mr. Devaney, and cannot be relaxed by action of the Naturalization Bureau.

Members of the FTA committee were Prudencio Mori, president of Local 7 and Connie Anderson, education director.

ACT ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Delegates strongly denounced the Truman Administration, the U. S. Department of Justice and the FBI for failing to act against violations of civil rights as part of the anti-labor drive of big business.

In a series of resolutions giving specific instances of such violations, FTA urged a legislative program to "defeat this plot to divide and weaken the workers and the common people in their fight against the employers."

The program includes: a permanent Fair Employment Practices Commission; repeal of the polltax; a Federal anti-lynching law; abolition of the Thomas-Rankin Un-American Committee; equal education opportunities; and the outlawing of job-discrimination, segregation and anti-minority propaganda.

A resolution in memoriam to Walter Campbell, FTA member who was murdered on the Southern Cotton Oil Co. picket line in Little Rock, Ark., was followed by a sharp reminder that following his death three of his fellow strikers were arrested and sentenced to a year in prison.

Refusal of the Arkansas State Supreme Court to reverse the verdict and throw out the "anti-violence law" under which they were tried, will carry the fight to the U. S. Supreme Court.

Passage of "right to work" laws in nine states was expected by the delegates as being backed and financed by reactionary employers, anti-labo and pro-fascist outfits such as the Ku Klux Klan and the "Christian Americans."

FTA also protested the threatened deportation of Joseph Webef of Chicago, an organizer for the CIO Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers Union.

NAIL 'DIGEST' FASCIST TIES

('Readers Digest', the handy little pocket magazine that goes into 9,000,000 homes every month and into thousands of schoolrooms, poses as a defender of everything pure and good in the American Way of Life. Actually, as this story on the suppressed report of O. John Rogge, special U. S. prosecutor in charge of the sedition trials shows, the 'Digest' hired some pretty shady characters among whom were people who took Nazi money. Rogge's report which blasted U. S. fascist ties with Nazis was suppressed by Attorney - General Tom Clark, who refuses to proceed against lynchers.)

By MIRIAM KOLKIN and ALLAN L. FLETCHER
Federated Press

Readers Digest, the little magazin with the big circulation, has tied itself to the coat tails of a paid Nazi agent.

The publication, which has been buying pages of advertising in some labor papers recently in an effort to sell "labor peace," is the present employer of a man, George T. Eggleston, who was revealed in the suppressed report of O. John Rogge, former assistant attorney general, as one of the receivers of some $39,000 in Nazi cash.

Eggleston wasn't paid for nothing. He and Douglas M. Stewart, as former editors of Scribner's Commentator, were given at least $15,000 of the money directly by Heribert von Strempel, Nazi press attache in the U. S., according to von Strempel's own testimony.

Be that as it may, Scribner's Commentator became a lavishly pro-Nazi magazine, warmly praising America's little fascists, and its articles and cartoons were picked up and reprinted by the German-American Bund.

Stewart is under indictment for perjury in connection with

Exposes 'Digest' Nazi ties—O. John Rogge, author of suppressed report on U. S. fascists.

some of his testimony when a grand jury looked into his Nazi ties. Eggleston is not. Instead he is one of the editors of Readers Digest.

Readers Digest also has other interesting contacts with men who had contacts with Nazis. Paul Palmer, former editor of American Mercury magazine, was friendly with numerous official and unofficial Nazis, according to Rogge. Among his close friends was Lawrence Dennis, who looks upon himself as the intellectual leader of U. S. fascism. Palmer, too, went to Readers Digest as an editor from 1939 to 1945.

In the summer of 1941 he prevailed upon Readers Digest to hire Dennis to do a series of articles. In Dennis' own words: "Last June, 1941, I did some work for Paul Palmer of the Readers Digest. I did one thing for them and I got $1,500 in 1941, I had lunch with (De Witt) Wallace. He is the editor of the Readers Digest.

"Wallace had lunch with me last spring . . . and said he wanted me to line up a set of articles on this quart of milk for everybody in the world, and freedom from want and poverty and all that sort of thing, the pros and cons, and he said he would have to be very careful not to let it be known that he was using me in any way.

"He said: 'You will have to stop your letter before it gets you in jail. (Dennis was writing a private pro-Nazi newsletter at the time.) They are not going to tolerate that kind of free speech now.'"

Dennis said Wallace also arranged to give him a monthly "stipend" of $400 if he would shut down his newsletter, and negotiated the deal through a public relations counsel "in order to keep the thing very confidential."

Readers Digest is very sensitive about its relations with these men. Top officials like Wallace are hard to get to see but they write long letters defending their hiring men who are known to have worked with the Nazis.

One of the more important of Readers Digest editors, asked by Federated Press about the relationship, brushed it aside with: "You know, there were a lot of us who opposed getting into the war before it started. . . . And what are you going to do, deprive a man of the right to make a living just because of a little thing like that?"

PUSH WITCH HUNT ON LABOR PAPERS

While Readers Digest, the Hearst papers, the Chicago Tribune, the New York News and their like are freely permitted to publish any kind of lies and slanders against labor and minority groups, the Thomas-Rankin unAmerican Committee in Congress is moving against labor and progressive publications.

Meeting the day before the new Congress opened, the Thomas-Rankin Committee, which is the new name for the old Dies Committee, announced it would ask Congress to:

1. Revoke second class mailing privileges of all papers it decides are promoting "subversive or unAmerican propaganda."

2. Deny second class mailing to all foreign language papers that fail to print a full English translation of each article in the next column.

3. Allow only U. S. citizens to become officers of unions.

Denial of second class mailing privileges would bankrupt any union publication, since without it, it would have to use first class mail. Requiring full English translations of foreign language papers would also cause bankruptcy. Thousands of U. S. workers read foreign language papers, many of which are progressive and pro-labor.

The warmest supporters of Thomas-Rankin Committee are just such papers as the Tribune, the Hearst press, the Readers Digest, etc.

VETS URGE ACTION

Adopting the report of the Veterans' Committee, the convention went on record demanding Congress take action to provide low cost housing for veterans as a first order of business.

Federal and state bonus for veterans; increased medical and hospitalization facilities; increased educational allotments; and increased compensation to disabled vets, were other legislative proposals.

In the community, the committee urged local unions to take an active part on veterans needs, particularly on housing, and to encourage union vets to participate in community veterans' organizations.

The Educational Department of FTA will coordinate and service the Veterans Committees in the Locals, while the Legislative Department will fight for Veteran's legislation in Congress.

The national office of FTA was asked to look into the administration of unemployment compensation to vets under the GI Bill because of many complaints of discrimination and unfair administration.

A letter of protest was sent to President Truman concerning discrimination and segregation in the armed forces.

GREETINGS and BEST WISHES

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IT IS AN ORGANIZATION OF MEN AND WOMEN BANDED TOGETHER TO TRY TO HELP ALL HUMANITY

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Peace, Full Employment, Prosperity for All and the FTA

CENTRAL JERSEY FARMERS COOP. ASSN.
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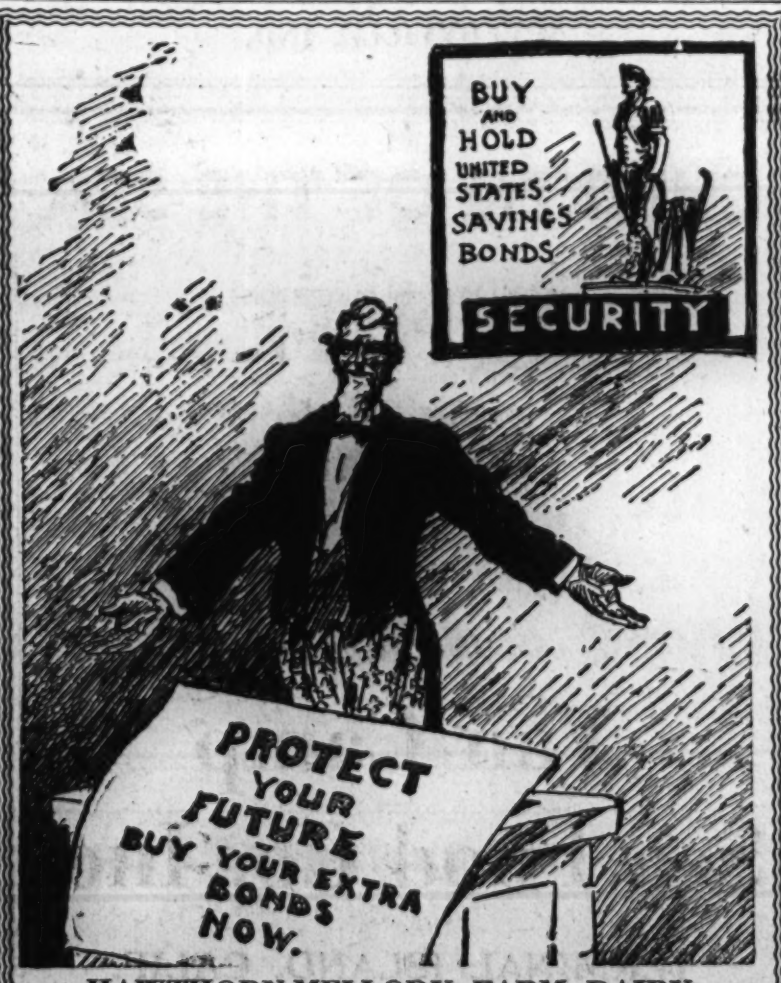
Greetings To The Delegates From A Union Plant



HAWTHORN-MELLODY FARM DAIRY OF WISCONSIN

'DISARM' SAYS CIO

CIO President Philip Murray and other leading Americans came out strongly in favor of world disarmament recently, and called on the Big Three to establish "practical measures" to carry out disarmament proposals.

"An international law to make aggressive war an international crime is a great step forward," their statement to President Truman, Premier Stalin and Prime Minister Attlee said. "But you can go all the way. Instead of waiting to punish international crime, you can prevent it."

Signers of the document included Murray; AFL President William Green; Karl T. Compton, leading atomic physicist; Senators Harley Kilgore of West Virginia, Glenn Taylor of Idaho, Elbert Thomas of Utah; and others.

The letter pointed to five essentials for "atomic peace and disarmament": provision in the UN charter for an international pool of armed force to act in emergencies; formation of an international organization to settle disputes between nations; the declaration of UN members in favor of inspection of armaments; Soviet recommendations calling for an international control commission; and the statements of President Truman and Premier Stalin against war.

GREEK LEADER SEIZED

GREECE (ALN) — Sec. Lolos of the Greek Tobacco Workers Federation was arrested together with six other leaders in Salonica and threatened with deportation as "dangerous to public order." Arrests directly followed the announcement of a new wage drive by tobacco workers. At the same time, an Athens schoolboy was expelled for shouting "Down with fascism" during an observation of the anniversary of the fascist attack against Greece.

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CHICKEN OF THE SEA

WHITE STAR

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THE WAR IS NOT OVER

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RED CROSS

ITS WORK CONTINUES

- FEEDING the HUNGRY
- HELPING to CLOTHE and SHELTER THEM and
- EXTENDING MEDICAL AID

AND FIRST—Looking After Your Sons and Daughters and Husbands and Loved Ones Still in the Services

Continue To Give — Join Your

Note: This Message Published as a Patriotic Service by the Following Firms:

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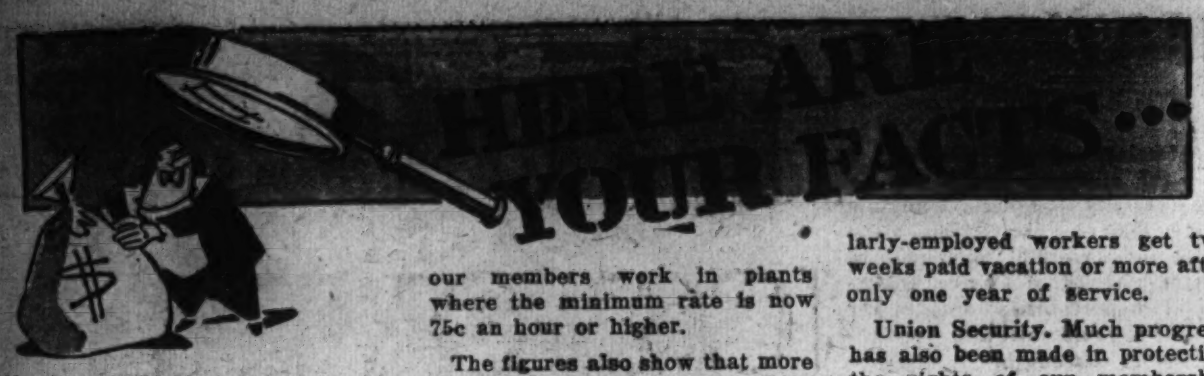

By Joseph Califf

It pays to belong to FTA

Proof of this is shown by a review of some of the gains which our union has made since the 1944 convention. During these past two years great progress has been made in bringing higher wages, better working conditions, and greater security to our members. The facts about our gains are brought out in the report of President Henderson submitted to the 6th National Convention last week.

Wage Increases. The earnings of workers in FTA shops have been raised by an average of 17½c an hour since V-J Day. This is a record which will stand comparison with that of any other union in the country, including the big CIO unions in the auto, steel, and electrical manufacturing industries.

Nine-tenths of all workers under FTA contract—some 75,000 workers—have benefited by these increases. Moreover, these figures dont tell the whole story since some locals have not reported their gains.

These raises have added more than $24,000,000 a year to the pay envelopes of our workers.

What it means in dollars and cents to belong to FTA is shown by the fact that in contrast to our union's outstanding record in securing wage increases, the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that as of last May, more than one-third of the workers in the food and tobacco industries had received no wage increase at all. The average increase for these industries as a whole amounted to only about eight cents an hour, which is less than half of what FTA has won for its members.

To put it another way, since the end of the war membership in FTA has paid year-round workers a dividend of $197.60 a year each in wage increases, more than the increases received by workers in the food and tobacco industries as a whole.

Minimum Wages. The effect of the union's wage gains shows up in a substantial improvement in the minimum wage provisions of our contracts. Nearly half of our members work in plants where the minimum rate is now 75c an hour or higher.

The figures also show that more than three-fourths of our workers are covered by contracts which establish a minimum of 65c an hour or better. Over nine-tenths work in plants where the minimum is 60c an hour and over.

Minimum wages of 75c an hour and over are paid in all seafood packing sheds under contract and in plants employing 94% of all FTA packing shed workers and 76% of all FTA cannery workers.

Overtime Pay. Just as FTA has done a job in raising minimum wages far above the 40c an hour required by the Wage-Hour Act, so we have also made great progress towards eliminating the unfair exemptions in the Wage-Hour Act which deny the legal right to overtime premium pay to the nearly two-thirds of our membership who work in canneries, packing sheds, seafood plants, dairy plants, leaf tobacco houses, cotton oil mills, and cotton compresses.

This law, which requires employers to pay time-and-a-half after 40 hours a week to most industrial workers, denies this right to workers in the FTA industries just mentioned, in some cases for 14 weeks of the year, in others for 28 weeks, and in still others for the entire year.

Through collective bargaining our union has completely or partially eliminated these unfair exemptions from plants employing 94% of our membership. Only 6% work in plants where the complete Wage-Hour exemption is allowed.

Over half of our workers in these industries now get time-and-a-half after 40 hours a week the year-round, in spite of the exemptions in the law. These include approximately two-thirds of FTA cannery, cotton oil, and cotton compress workers, and 57% of the workers in FTA dairy and leaf tobacco plants.

Paid Vacations. Substantial progress has been made in the last two years in securing paid vacations for our membership. Not counting seasonal workers, nearly 80% now receive at least one week's vacation for one year of service and two weeks after five years, as compared to only 64% as of December 1944.

Over one-fourth of our regularly-employed workers get two weeks paid vacation or more after only one year of service.

Union Security. Much progress has also been made in protecting the rights of our membership through improvements in the union security clauses of our contracts. In December 1944, only one-fourth of our members were covered by union-shop or closed-shop contracts. Today 39% of our members work in union or closed-shop plants.

The financial security of the union has been strengthened by an increase in the number of workers covered by check-off clauses from 57% of our membership at the end of 1944 to 75% at the present time.

Membership. An outstanding organizing job has been done in bringing the benefits of FTA wages and working conditions to the workers in our industries. During the last two years, the number of workers covered by FTA contracts or bargaining rights has increased by one-third. At the beginning of this year we represented almost 103,000 workers, compared to 77,000 in November 1944. Since then, the ranks of FTA have been increased by 1,400 workers more as a result of elections won just in the last few days.

MAP TRAINING DRIVE

A hard-working committee of 14 delegates reviewed the education work in FTA and presented a program which brought them to their feet, following a speech by Moranda Smith of Local 22, Winston Salem, N. C.

Analyzing the eight Leadership Training schools with a total of 253 delegates since the last convention, the education program concludes that "the importance of bringing together local union officers and stewards for a week of study cannot be overemphasized." To strengthen the schools, the education program called for:

Local unions to put greater emphasis on selecting local union officers and stewards who can be depended upon to put into practice what they learn.

More schools and in more areas; Two week schools wherever the most of the locals can finance longer attendance; Schools for business agents and other full-time officers.

Increased emphasis on stewards' work so that the delegates get not only detailed points of settling grievances, but also a deep understanding of the stewards as a true leader of the worker, one who always fights for the workers correctly and who never becomes separate from them.

More study of industry facts, such as wage rates in competing plants, company profits, etc.

For year-round education in each local, the program calls for development of a five-point program:

1. Stewards' classes, led by the most experienced local union officer. Classes in trade unionism to be developed where competent discussion leaders can be found.

2. New members' classes, conducted by an officer of the local, covering condition in the plant before the union, and the main points on how the union operates emphasizing that active participation by all members is essential to develop a powerful union.

3. Officers and stewards classes on organization of union work and meetings. FTA bulletin on "How to Get the Membership Out to Meetings" with discussion outline, as basis.

4. Sale and distribution of Union literature.

5. Guarantee selection of delegates to the leadership schools, and sufficient funds to finance attendance.

Use of slide films and movies is recommended.

Members of the Convention Education Committee were: Robbie Mae Riddick, Local 26, Chairman; Ann Timon, Local 78 and Mildred Glenn, Local 58, co-Secretaries; Edward Bosko, Local 115; Iola Weese, Local 127; Flossie Jones, Local 26; Moranda Smith, Local 22; Thelma Davis, Local 10; Ramona Winters, Local 25; Emma Lorenz, Local 30; John Juditz, Local 80; James Pate, Local 150; William Baunbach, Local 47; and Rita Riley.

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THE HEALTH OF THE NATION

By the Hon. Claude A. Pepper

(At the request of FTA News, Senator Claude A. Pepper, who has fought for workers' health more than any other man in Congress, has written this special article for our paper. The article appears in two sections, section two below.)

Lack of hospitals and diagnostic facilities is one of the most important factors in keeping doctors away from rural practice. The Hospital Construction Act, passed by the last Congress, if wisely administered, can in several years have the effect of diminishing the maldistribution of physicians by providing hospitals for them to work in. For significant results, a broader, more inclusive national health program must be our goal.

Probably the most economically depressed group in agriculture are the migratory workers and their families. Deprived of the stability that comes from having secure roots in the community, with no political voice, the discrimination they face and the conditions under which many of them live are unworthy of our democratic ideals.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture, is doing relatively little to alleviate the problem. Foreign workers from Mexico, the West Indies and elsewhere are still being brought into this country under contract as agricultural workers, given wage guarantees and **fairly complete medical care.** On the other hand, native American migratory agricultural workers may receive a limited amount of medical care through the Department of Agriculture, if, when they need the medical care they happen to be living in a Federal farm labor camp and funds are available after the foreign workers have been taken care of.

In my State of Florida, at Belle Glade, the Department of Agri-

Senator Pepper

culture operates a very fine 60 bed hospital for migratory agricultural workers. I am glad we have this very fine institution in Florida. But this is insufficient—this 60 bed hospital is the only one exclusively for agricultural workers in the entire United States.

Achieving better health is a multiple process. Eradication of substandard wages through a Federal minimum wage law at substantially higher minimum wages than now exists would mean more food, clothing and housing better health. More educational opportunities and better facilities would raise the standard of living. These things are important, but by themselves are not enough.

Industrial union councils and other groups may bring effective pressure to bear locally on the control of filth and water-borne diseases, on the construction of pasteurization plants, and in general to increase the effectiveness of local health departments. All these are important, too, but still not enough.

I have long been interested in, and have fought for, national health legislation. These efforts have not been in vain. Federal funds are now available to the states for assistance in maternal and child health, for a school lunch program, for mental hygiene services, for cancer control, and for hospital construction. Each of these is an important milestone on the road to better health. But even when all are added up they do not provide the kind of health care this nation is capable of.

We can no longer afford the paradox whereby the U. S. with the best equipped hospitals and institutions for medical research in the world, with more doctors, dentists and nurses than any other country, keeps the resources of modern medicine from those sections of the population which need them most.

Our nation is capable of translating its need for better health into a concrete plan of action. Such a plan is to be found in the Wagner-Murray-Dingell Bill, which was introduced in November 1945, immediately following the President's Health Message to Congress.

By pooling the resources of the Nation, this bill established a program of national health insurance to assure nearly all of our population the widest possible scope of medical services at the lowest possible cost. The barrier of the dollar mark, which too often stands between the patient and the doctor, hospital or nurse, would be eliminated.

The bill provided for free choice of doctor. After extensive hearings, in July 1946, the Wagner-Murray-Dingell Bill died in committee.

The need for national health legislation as embodied in the Wagner-Murray-Dingell Bill did not die. That need is ever present among millions of industrial workers, millions of small and middle farmers and farm workers, and their dependents.

When these people make it clear to their Congressmen and Senators that they want nothing less than national health insurance legislation by the approved American principle of insuring and sharing the risk in order to obtain good medical care and achieve good health, then we can be confident that national health legislation will be enacted.

Not too much of a tip, dear... Remember your theories on inflation...

What are ya doin', holding it for ransom?

New Congress Threatens To Knife Portal Claims

By LEE PRESSMAN
CIO General Counsel

APPARENTLY one of the first threatened acts on the part of Congress is not to be directed against the hardships which now confront American workers through the rising cost of living and the absence of decent housing but rather to deprive workers of claims which they have under the Wage-Hour Law as determineed by the U. S. Supreme Court.

I refer to claims for back pay to which workers are entitled covering their travel time and time spent on other preliminary work in plants under a recent decision by the U. S. Supreme Court involving the Mt. Clemens Pottery Co.

Under the Wage-Hour Law an employe must be paid time and a half for all hours in excess of the work-week fixed in that law. The Wage-Hour Law establishes the work-week for the year Oct. 1938 to Oct. 1939 as 44-hours. From Oct. 1939 to Oct. 1940, the work-week is established as 42 hours. For all years subsequent to Oct. 1940 the work-week is set at 40 hours.

The Mt. Clemens case involved the time spent by employes in walking from the time clock to the place where work was performed, as well as the time spent in certain "make-ready" activities prior to the commencement of productive work. The question arose whether the time spent in these activities should be considered as "employment" or "hours worked." If the periods of time in question are considered "hours worked," then the employes had a claim against the employer for time and a half for those periods.

This is so because the time spent by the employes in these activities would bring their number of hours to a total in excess of the work-week. Moreover, under the Wage-Hour Law, the employes would be entitled not only to their unpaid wages but also to an equal amount as liquidated damages.

The Court upheld the employes' claim and stated that the time necessarily spent by employes in walkingly to work on the employer's premises, following the punching of the time clock, was working time. In explaining why it was working time, the Court said that it was "under the complete control of the employer, being dependent solely upon the physical arrangements which the employer made in the factory . . . Without such walking on the part of the employes the productive aims of the employer could not have been achieved."

Under the reasoning of the Court it would seem that all time necessarily spent in walking on the employer's premises subject to his control should be computed in determining the number of hours worked by an employe. The particular facts of the Mt. Clemens case happened to involve travel time from a time clock to the place of work, and the time clock was at the plant gate. Under the reasoning of the decision, the same result should follow if time is spent on the employer's premises in going to and preparing for work, regardless of whether this time is spent before or after punching the time clock.

This decision, while it dealt with pottery, can be applied to work in a steel mill or a steel fabricating plant, or any other industrial plant. Under the principles of this decision, time spent by an employe in walking from the plant gate to his place of work in collecting tools, in changing clothes, in receiving instructions prior to the commencement of a shift, should be viewed as working time.

The Mt. Clemens case was prosecuted by the CIO. The basis of the decision is but a natural extension of the doctrine approved by the U. S. Supreme Court for the underground iron miners regarding their travel time. It should be recalled that this also resulted in a case originally prosecuted by the CIO.

American employers were actually on notice after the underground miners' portal-to-partol case was decided by the United States Supreme Court, that this doctrine, under the Wage-Hour Law, applied to all industrial plants. Their failure to pay their employes for all travel time and time spent on other preliminary work should not now be the basis for wiping out all past claims of the workers.

On the basis of widespread propaganda deliberately fomented during the past few weeks by the Natl. Assn. of Manufacturers and the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, open statements have been made that Congress, as one of its first acts, will enact some law to deprive American workers of their claims. Of course, it is well known that any such legislation is unconstitutional, particularly when applied to past claims, but that obstacle is not going to deter the reactionaries in Congress.

WORLD LABOR GREETS FTA

"Warmest fraternal wishes" were received by the convention from Louis Saillant, general secretary of the World Federation of Trade Unions.

"I am confident that your work and your resolutions will honour your union and the CIO which represents American trade unionism truly imbued with the most humane and efficient international spirit." he cabled.

"The 71 millions of men and women affiliated to the WFTU have placed in it all their hopes. They count on the ties of work and of the brotherhood of labor to tie around the world a ring of peace and prosperity. Today let me convey to you in their name the token of their wishes."

From three Soviet food and tobacco unions came the following cable saying "Our friendship will promote international workers' solidarity, strengthening the WFTU which realizes international labor unity and fights for establishing durable peace throughout the world and workers well beirg.

"Long live friendship between the workers of the USA and the USSR. Long live international labor unity." The cable was signed by President Kovalevsky of the Milk and Meat Industry Workers Union; Secretary Fedotov Bakers Union; and President Kouleshov, Tobacco Workers Union.

Greetings were also received from Lombardo Toledano, president of the Confederation of Latin American Workers.